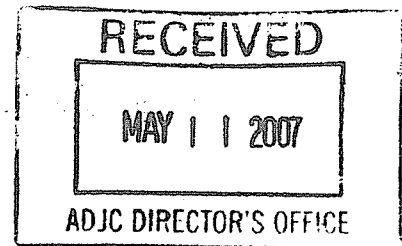




Jennifer Ryan-Touhill
Attorney-At-Law



May 9, 2007

Judge Maria del Mar Verdin
Maricopa Superior Court-Juvenile Division
1810 South Lewis
Mesa, Arizona 85210

Director Michael Branham
Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections
1624 West Adams
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Judge Verdin and Director Branham:

I am writing this letter to you both, as I have a story of success of the juvenile justice system to share with you. This story involves a kid that Judge Verdin at one time committed to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC), years ago.

You need some background on how I came upon this story. I am currently in need of therapeutic massage for chiropractic purposes—suffice it to say at thirty-something I seem to be falling apart! At one of my appointments, I had a new massage therapist working with me. As usual upon first introductions, he asked what I did for a living. I responded that I was an attorney. He inquired as to what area of law I practiced in. I told him that I recently went into private practice involving family and juvenile law, but that prior to making the move into the private sector, I had worked for various government offices in mostly juvenile law.

After a brief pause, he asked if I had defended kids at "juvey." At this point in the conversation, I was in a rather vulnerable position of my neck being held in his hands and so I said to him that if he promised not to hurt me, I would tell him my role in juvenile court! He agreed and we laughed. I explained that I had prosecuted juveniles when I was a Deputy County Attorney, later worked in the legal office for Juvenile Corrections, next I represented CPS in cases involving

parents abusing or neglecting their kids and now, I have cases in which I represent kids.

At this point he shared a part of his adolescent life story with me: As a teenager, he had gone through the "Mesa juvey court." He had started with mostly truancy citations and then graduated to felonies such as drug possession and assault. He had been in and out of the juvenile detention center for various offenses.

He said that his judge was "a little Hispanic judge with a name like 'Verde'". (I said to him, "I think you are referring to Judge Verdin." He said, "Yeah, that was her.").

He related that after so many times coming back in front of her, the judge eventually sent him to "juvey corrections." He was sent to ADJC for an assault on a resource school officer. His commitment length of stay at ADJC was for 11 months.

He expressed his anger that he had toward the Judge for sending him there and that he spent the first 3 days of commitment in his room refusing to leave it and not wanting to eat. He hated ADJC but, slowly came around to participating in the programs and group sessions.

This young African-American man stated that the 11 months at ADJC was what it took to turn his life around. After his commitment to ADJC, he knew that he was not interested in returning to his previous way of life and circle of friends. He believes that without this intervention he would have continued on a path to prison as an adult.

He mentioned that even now, as an adult, he actually will think about and recall what he learned in group sessions at ADJC and how to apply those learned lessons and coping skills to his experiences in his adult life: think it through before acting or reacting.

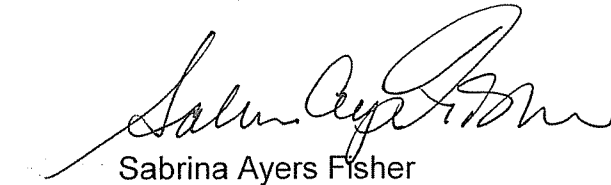
While at the time of his commitment at ADJC he was angry and unable to understand how being sent to corrections could possibly help him, this young man has now made a success of his life. He has learned and obtained the skills of a message therapist to help people who need a certain level of physical therapy. He helps people and alleviates their pain. He made positive choices for his life.

It is refreshing and reassuring when we hear of a child's life that we touched in a positive way through our daily work in the juvenile justice system. When we handle the volume of each day's court calendars and kid's cases, we easily overlook how much impact we really have on a child's life and their family. Many times I hear from juvenile law practitioners that if we can make a positive change

in a few kids' lives, knowing that we cannot "save" them all, the work we do is worth the effort and gratifying. I agree.

It is not often that a judge or the good people at ADJC hear about how their decisions or their work helped a young person be successful. This young man's story shows the ripple effect of making a difference in someone's life. I like to think that I help children and families by the work that I have done and continue to do in various roles in the juvenile system. This young man was given a chance and choice to live a different kind of life through the services of the juvenile court. He took that opportunity and became trained to help people who are in pain by practicing therapeutic massage. Now, he helps me through the use his skills of therapy to be a healthier, pain-free person. I guess this is referred to as "the circle of life."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sabrina Ayers Fisher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sabrina" being the most prominent part.

Sabrina Ayers Fisher